



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

No. 121

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source of our being, on this 11th anniversary of September 11, we pause to remember how You sustained us even through life's tragedies. Recalling the deaths and the injuries, the heroism, and the patriotism, it is easy for us to be thankful for Your presence and power. Continue to guide this land we love on the labyrinthine path to greatness, protecting it from dangers seen and unseen, as You heal its doubts and divisions. Use our Senators for Your glory as our Nation seeks to truly be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of

Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

VETERANS JOBS CORPS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 476, S. 3457.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion. The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 476, S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the first hour will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans will control the final half. At 11 a.m. there will be a moment of silence in observance of the 11th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 p.m. there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 3457, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 8, S. 3522, S. 3525

Mr. President, I am told there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for a second time.

A bill (H.R. 8) to extend certain tax relief provisions enacted in 2001 and 2003, and to

provide for expedited consideration of a bill providing for comprehensive tax reform, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3522) to provide for the expansion of affordable refinancing of mortgages held by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

A bill (S. 3525) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to all three bills that were read for the second time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just a short way from this Chamber, in S-209, we have been meeting for many years as a Senate Democratic leadership to discuss the issues of the week. We just finished a meeting there, and part of the discussion today in that meeting was what happened 11 years ago at the exact same time we were meeting there. I can remember that so clearly. I will never, ever forget that. It is implanted in my mind so clearly. I was the first one to get to that meeting, and Senator Breaux from Louisiana came in and said: There is something going on in New York. Let's turn on the TV. And we did. Senators started coming in. It appeared an airplane hit one of the towers, and we were wondering why it would have done that. Something was obviously wrong.

Senator Daschle was the leader at the time. He started the meeting, and the TV was off. The meeting was just getting started, and someone came in to take Senator Daschle out of that meeting. He came back very quickly and said: There is a plane headed for the Capitol, and we all have to evacuate the Capitol—everybody. The alarm went out and people were rushing down these halls leaving. I can remember leaving that room over here and looking out the window and seeing the smoke billowing from what we

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6075